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Montana Public Service Commission

Gary Feland, Chairman
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September 25, 2001

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SEP 27 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45; Montana's Certification of Rural Carriers
Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314; Universal Service Support for High-Cost Areas

Dear Ms. Salas:

Federal Communications Commission rules provide that all states desiring rural local exchange carriers within their jurisdiction receive federal universal service support for high-cost areas must file, annually, a certification with the FCC and the administrator of the high-cost universal service support mechanism. 47 C.F.R. § 54.314. The certification must be that the support provided to such carriers within the state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. *Id.*

Montana desires that the following rural carriers receive federal universal service support for high-cost areas:

1. Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2. Central Montana Communications, Inc.
3. CenturyTel
4. Citizens Communications Company
5. Clark Fork Telecommunications, Inc.
6. Hot Springs Telephone Company
7. InterBel Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
8. Lincoln Telephone Company, Inc.
9. Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
10. Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
11. Northern Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
12. Project Telephone Company
13. Range Telephone Cooperative
14. Reservation Telephone Cooperative

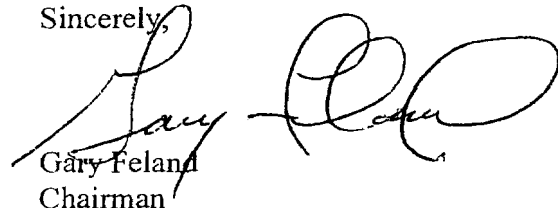
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15. Ronan Telephone Company
16. RT Communications
17. Southern Montana Telephone Company
18. Tri County Telephone Association, Inc. (TCT West, Inc.)
19. 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
20. Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.
21. West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Therefore, the Montana Public Service Commission, the appropriate Montana regulatory authority to do so, hereby certifies for 2002 support that the above-designated rural incumbent local exchange carriers within Montana's jurisdiction eligible to receive support through the federal high-cost universal service support mechanism will use all federal high-cost support provided through the federal rural high-cost funding mechanism for and only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

A copy of this certification has been provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company, administrator of the federal high-cost universal service support mechanism. If you have any questions or comments regarding this certification please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gary Feland
Chairman

cc: USAC
Attention: Irene Flannery
2120 L. St. N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037



Exhibit B

Exchange Prefix	Switch Name	County
244	Potomac	Missoula
246	Dixon	Sanders
349	Alta	Ravalli
492	Avon	Powell
644	Charlo	Lake
677	Seeley Lake	Missoula
726	Arlee	Lake
745	St. Ignatius	Lake
754	Condon	Missoula
793	Ovando	Powell
825	Clinton	Missoula
864	Alberton South	Missoula
942	Powell*	Clearwater, Idaho

* At the time of this Certification there was 45 lines in service.

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State of Montana)
)
County of Missoula)

CERTIFICATION BY ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER PURSUANT
TO FCC ORDER NO. 01-157

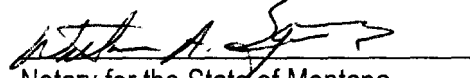
Affidavit

David P. Dickman, being first duly sworn, says:

1. I am the Vice President – Finance, for Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. I make this affidavit from my own knowledge of the financial structure of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2. I make this affidavit on behalf of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
3. On behalf of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I certify that, pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's *Fourteenth Report and Order, In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative will use all 2002 federal high-cost, local switching, and any related "lifeline" or safety net support provided to it for and only for the purposes for which universal service support is intended, including the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services provided by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to its subscribers, consistent with the principles set forth in 47 U.S.C. §254.


David P. Dickman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25th day of September, 2001.


Notary for the State of Montana
Residing at Missoula, Montana
My commission expires: 9-9-2004

(Notarial Seal)